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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.   (currently amended)   A computer network for providing services comprising:

a plurality of computing elements each of which comprises computing resources for supporting one or more services;

a mail server for receiving and routing email; and

a redirector, separate from said mail server, communicatively connected to said mail server and each of said computing elements, wherein said redirector receives email from said mail server, wherein each e-mail relates to a specific said service, with or without being addressed to a specific computing element, and wherein said redirector is configured to selectively match an available computing element with a specific service request of an incoming e-mail and forward the e-mail to that computing element so as to serve as an email proxy for said plurality of computing elements;

wherein said services are controlled by email messages routed by said redirector among said plurality of computing elements.

2.   (original)   The network of claim 1, wherein:

each of said plurality of computing elements comprises a service handler; and

said service handler on a computing element extracts an access function from an incoming email message and complies with said extracted access function.

3.   (previously presented) The network of claim 1, wherein said redirector comprises a mail router for routing email messages.

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4. (original) The network of claim 1, wherein:

said redirector comprises a service handler for extracting an access function from

incoming email messages; and

said service handler complies with said extracted access function by transmitting

commands or data to said plurality of computing elements supporting said services.

5. (previously presented) The network of claim 4, wherein said commands or data

comprises a service.

6. (previously presented) The network of claim 4, wherein said commands or data

comprises a specified location where a service can be accessed.

7. (cancelled)

8. (currently amended) The network of claim 1, further comprising a firewall

through which said email messages are received, said mail server and redirector both being

protected within said a common firewall.

9. (original) The network of claim 8, further comprising a web client within

said firewall communicating with said redirector to obtain access to said services.

10. (original) The network of claim 9, wherein said redirector generates web

pages related to said services for said web client.

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11. (currently amended) A method of providing services with a computer network that comprises a plurality of computing elements each of which comprise computing resources for supporting one or more services, and a redirector, communicatively connected to each of said computing elements; said method comprising:

receiving an e-mail message ~~addressed to said redirector as proxy for said computing elements~~, said message being configured for controlling a <u>specific</u> service on one of said computing elements<u>, wherein said e-mail message relates to said specific service, with or without being addressed to a specific computing element</u>; and

routing at least some of said e-mail message to a corresponding computing element with said redirector that is configured to function as an e-mail proxy for said computing elements<u>, wherein said redirector determines which computing element receives data from said e-mail message based on the specific service to which that e-mail message relates</u>.

12. (original) The method of claim 11, further comprising:

routing an email message to a computing element with said redirector;

extracting an access function from that email message with a service handler on that computing element; and

complying with said extracted access function.

13. (original) The method of claim 11, further comprising

extracting an access function from incoming email messages with a service handler on said redirector; and

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complying with said extracted access function by transmitting commands or data from said email message to one of said plurality of computing elements supporting said services.

14.   (original)   The method of claim 13, wherein said step of extracting an access function further comprises extracting a service from said e-mail, and said step of complying with said extracted access function further comprises loading the extracted service to one of said computing elements with available computing resources.

15.   (previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein said commands or data comprise a specified location from which a service is to be obtained, said method further comprising obtaining said service from said specified location.

16.   (original)   The method of claim 11, further comprising:
receiving email with a mail server; and
transferring email containing an access function to said redirector as proxy for said plurality of computing elements.

17.   (original)   The method of claim 16, further comprising protecting said mail server and redirector with a firewall through which said email messages are received.

18.   (original)   The method of claim 17, further comprising accessing said services with a web client within said firewall that communicates with said redirector.

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19.   (original)   The method of claim 18, further comprising generating web

pages for said web client with said redirector, said web pages being related to said services.

20.   (original)   The method of claim 11, further comprising generating web

pages for a web client with said redirector, said web pages being related to said services.

21.   (original)   The method of claim 11, further comprising sending a response

email message following compliance with said extracted access function.

22.   (previously presented) The network of claim 1, wherein said redirector is

configured to extract a service from an incoming email and launch said extracted service on

one of said computing elements.

23.   (previously presented) The network of claim 22, wherein said redirector

determines on which computer element to launch said service.

24.   (previously presented) The network of claim 1, wherein at least one of said

computing elements comprises a service handler.

25.   (previously presented) The network of claim 24, wherein said service handler

downloads a service from an address taken from an incoming email message.

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26. (previously presented)A computer network for providing services comprising:

a plurality of computing elements each of which comprises computing resources for supporting one or more services; and

a service handler on at least one of said computing elements for automatically obtaining a service using an incoming email and loading and invoking that service on the computing element corresponding to the service handler.

27. (previously presented) The network of claim 26, wherein said service handler is configured to extract said service from said incoming email.

28. (previously presented)The network of claim 26, wherein said service handler is configured to obtain said service from a location specified in said incoming email and then invoke that service.

29. (previously presented)The network of claim 26, further comprising a redirector, communicatively connected to each of said computing elements, configured to serve as an email proxy for said plurality of computing elements;

wherein said services are controlled by email messages routed by said redirector among said plurality of computing elements.

30. (new) The network of claim 26, wherein each email relates to a specific said service, with or without being addressed to a specific computing element, and wherein said redirector is configured to selectively match an available computing element with a specific

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service request of an incoming e-mail and forward data from the e-mail to that computing

element so as to serve as an email proxy for said plurality of computing elements;

31.   (new) The network of claim 26, further comprising a separate service handler

on each of said plurality of computing components.

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